



PRESS RELEASE

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DCR Designates the Town of Adams Provisional Developer of Greylock Glen Outdoor Recreation and Environmental Education Center

BOSTON: The Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) announced today that DCR Commissioner Stephen H. Burrington has approved the designation of the Town of Adams as the Provisional Developer for the Greylock Glen Outdoor Recreation and Environmental Education Center. The overall development, when complete, is to contain six major components, including an environmental education center, a performing arts amphitheatre, outdoor environmental art, camping, lodging and meeting facilities and conservation lands at the site in Adams.

“I look forward to working with the Town of Adams on a historic development of Greylock Glen that ensures the economic interests of your local residents, businesses, and institutions and protects the vital natural resources of Greylock Glen for generations to come,” said Commissioner Burrington in his letter to Myra Wilk, Chairman of the Town of Adams Board of Selectmen.

The Town of Adams, as the proposed master developer, plans to develop the Greylock Glen Outdoor Recreation and Environmental Education Center in close consultation with the Massachusetts Audubon Society, the Appalachian Mountain Club, the Massachusetts College of Liberal Arts and the Massachusetts Museum of Contemporary Art. The proposal was designed to provide economic benefits to the Northern Berkshires, complement downtown

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Governor

Kerry Healey
Lt. Governor

Stephen R. Pritchard, Secretary
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Stephen H. Burrington, Commissioner
Department of Conservation & Recreation

Adams; emphasize environmental awareness, and preserve 1000+ acres of Greylock Glen, located at the base of DCR's 12,500 acre Mount Greylock State Reservation.

Phase I of the development concept includes a multi-use trail system, a campground, ancillary outdoor recreation and outdoor environmental art. The estimated cost of Phase I is \$6.4 million, with full build-out of the entire project estimated at \$44 million.

With the approval of provisional designation, DCR staff will enter into negotiations with Town of Adams immediately on the development of a Provisional Developer Designation Agreement. Once signed by all parties including the state's Division of Capital Asset Management (DCAM), the agreement will formally designate the town as the Provisional Developer, thereby making the town eligible for \$3 million in matching funds from DCR.

In his letter, Commissioner Burrington noted that he was impressed with the town's proposed collaboration with environmental and cultural organizations. "The historic collective vision developed ... is exciting and I feel it possesses the necessary qualifications and experience required to accomplish the development plan and vision outlined in your proposal" said Commissioner Burrington.

"The Town of Adams should be commended for their efforts in developing a cohesive smart growth development program that fulfills the purpose of Chapter 676 of the Acts of 1985 by developing a 'regional economic and recreational facility' that serves those in the Berkshires and protects the Mount Greylock State Reservation."

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The approval of the Town of Adams designation was based on the unanimous recommendation of the Developer Selection Committee (DSC). The DSC includes staff from DCR, MassDevelopment and DCAM. Charles Johnson of C.H. Johnson Consulting, Inc. of Chicago, Illinois also served as a consultant to the DSC to provide expertise in real estate and economic development. The DSC recommendation noted that the proposal fulfills the vision, mission and project goals and objectives contained in the Amended Master Plan and the conceptual layout meets the land use guidelines.

DCR's designation is further based on the DSC finding that the proposal submitted by the Town of Adams for the creation of Greylock Glen Outdoor Recreation and Environmental Education Center met the criteria in the Request for Proposals issued by Mass Development on behalf of DCR dated February 4, 2004. The DSC also noted the overall positive comments received at the March 30th meeting where the Town of Adams presented their proposal to the public.

With this designation the Town of Adams will be able to assemble a steering committee which will consist of representatives from each of their proposed environmental and cultural "partners" as well as local community and business leaders to further refine the project plan. Once the Provisional Developer Designation is signed and the concept further developed, details of the development plan will be finalized through the required Massachusetts Environmental Policy Act (MEPA) permitting process as well as all other federal, state and local permits and approvals that will be required for the site.

The Legislative delegation from representing the Town of Adams has been very supportive of their proposal for Greylock Glen. State Senator Andrea F. Nuciforo, Jr. and Representative Daniel Bosley have been particularly vocal in their endorsement.

"The Greylock Glen project strikes an important balance in terms of conservation and development, as it will adhere to sustainable building practices, while protecting large tracks

of land that will be accessible to the public. It will also provide financial, educational and recreational opportunities for the residents of Adams, and indeed the Northern Berkshires,” said state Sen. Andrea F. Nuciforo, Jr. (D-Pittsfield). “The Town of Adams is well positioned to lead this effort and I look forward to working with local and state officials on this enterprising project.”

"This is great news that gives us the opportunity to move ahead with this important project," said State Representative Daniel E. Bosley (D-North Adams). "Finally, we are able to begin to move on a project that was promised to the Town of Adams decades ago. The Town of Adams deserves a great deal of credit for sticking to the dream of economic benefits and environmental sensitivity. They designed a realistic plan and volunteered to take control of the process as the developer. I look forward to working with the Town

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